

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 3rd November 1998 7:15 for 7:45

The Statistical Laboratory,
16 Mill Lane, Cambridge

Statistical Consulting in the Pharmaceutical Industry

David Underwood

The Statwood Partnership,
Hitchen

Abstract: The talk will reflect on 20 years of consulting experience, and examples of real life situations will be given, however names and circumstances will be changed to protect the innocent!! Examples drawn from consulting as a company statistician from within a major pharmaceutical company will be contrasted to those when acting as an external consultant. The effect of the statistical review from within the UK regulatory authorities on statistical consultants will also be discussed.

Speaker: David Underwood joined Smith Kline and French in 1978 as a statistician. Since then he has had considerable experience in the pre-clinical, clinical and post marketing areas, designing and analysing many types of studies ranging from toxicological experiments to large European multi-centre clinical trials. He has also advised on studies as diverse as trials involving single patients and large epidemiological studies based on the Third World. David was Head of Clinical Data Management Services responsible for 30 Data Management and Statistical staff when he left SmithKline Beecham in 1994 to set up the STATWOOD Partnership with John Beresford. David is a Chartered Statistician and was awarded his MSc in 1978.

Directions: The Statistical Laboratory is part of the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics which is situated on the North side of Mill Lane (right hand side starting from Trumpington Street). Use the West entrance which is reached through the car park guarded by traffic lights; proceed to the seminar room (S27) on the second floor. The outside door is locked but will be attended from 7:15 to 7:45. There is no car parking on site (the Lion Yard multi-storey is nearby).

Next Meetings: (Please note change of dates from October notice)

8th December – Peter Treasure (Strangeways Research) .

21st January – Max Parmar (Cancer Trials Office).

18th February – Ken Lakhani (Animal Health Trust) on ‘Man’s Best Friend is Dog, Dog’s Best Friend is a Statistician’.

18th March – Alistair Murray (British Antarctic Survey).

May – Nick Goldman (Genetics) on ‘Hidden Markov Models of Protein Structure and Protein Sequence Evolution’.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.

Subscriptions: of 4 pounds per member are now due for the 1998-9 session. Cheques should be made payable to Margaret Corbett and may be posted to the secretary at the address below.

Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF; telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1996-97

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1996-97 was held at the Computer Laboratory, New Museums Site, Cambridge, on 7th October 1997. **Present:** Peter Rothery (in Chair), Dave Andrews, John Bell, Tim Cole, Margaret Corbett, Jamie Gabbay, Sheila Gore, Graham Healey, Tony Johnson, Chris Palmer, Lisa Robertson, Gordon Taylor, Jacquelyn Taylor, Peter Treasure, Peter Watson. **Apologies:** Tim Sparks, Helen Tate.

The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The **Treasurer's** Accounts were circulated. She told the Group it was not necessary to raise the subscription from £3 for 1997-8. The Group decided that she may, but is not obliged to, raise the subscription for 1998-9 to either £4 or £5. Peter Rothery thanked the treasurer for another year of sterling work.

The **Secretary** presented a brief analysis of the previous session's attendance. Both median meeting attendance (16) and total number of people attending (65) were up on the previous two sessions. Peter Watson remarked on the success of the field trip to ITE in May and appealed to any other potential field trip organisers or speakers to come forward rather than wait to be asked.

Election of officers and committee: All committee members exercised their right to stand again and were re-elected unopposed.

The committee for 1997-98: *chair* Peter Rothery; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Margaret Corbett; *ex-officio* Nick Winder; *ordinary* Tim Sparks, Diane Stockton, Helen Tate.

Any Other Business: none.

Treasurer's Accounts and Report 1997-98

| Expenditure | 1997-8 | 1996-7 | Income | 1997-8 | 1996-7 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Secretarial expenses | £81.28 | £86.39 | Initial cash balance | £115.77 | £138.88 |
| Speakers' meals | £00.65 | £13.05 | Subscriptions (No. of people) | £96.00 (32) | £93.00 (31) |
| Secretary -in hand | £20.23 | £22.16 | | | |
| Balance c/f | £115.59 | £115.77 | Interest | £5.98 | £5.49 |
| Totals | £217.75 | £237.37 | | £217.75 | £237.37 |

Treasurer's Report: Largely through the efforts of the secretary and the abstemious eating habits of our speakers' we were able to minimize costs in the 1997-8 session. As a precaution, however, against possible increases in postage, extra speakers' meals, room hire and label toner purchase an increase in the subscription to £4 is recommended.

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1997-98

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1997-98 was held at the Computer Laboratory, New Museums Site, Cambridge, on 6th October 1998. **Present:** Peter Watson (in chair), Tim Cole, Margaret Corbett, Mary Garratt, Sheila Gore, Tony Johnson, Rob Milroy, Gesine Reinert, Helen Tate, Gordon Taylor, Jacquelyn Taylor, Peter Treasure. **Apologies:** Dave Andrews, Peter Rothery, Eryl Shirley, Tim Sparks, Diane Stockton.

The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The **Treasurer's** Accounts were circulated. On the basis of expected extra costs in the 1998-9 session it was decided to raise the subscription to £4 for 1998-99. Heartfelt thanks were expressed to Margaret for another year of efficiency and effort. Margaret stated she wished to retire as Treasurer at the end of the 1998-9 session and would welcome any volunteers to succeed her.

The **Secretary** presented a brief analysis of the previous session's attendance. Total attendance (96) was down on last year (131) but comparable to 1995-96 (104). Peter Watson appealed to anyone interested in hosting a group meeting to kindly contact him since there was a shortage of centrally located venues.

Election of officers and committee: Eryl Shirley was proposed as chair by Peter Treasure and elected unopposed. All other committee members exercised their right to stand again and were re-elected unopposed. Peter Rothery was thanked for his conscientious contribution as chair. The committee for 1998-99: *chair* Eryl Shirley; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Margaret Corbett; *ex-officio* Peter Rothery; *ordinary* Tim Sparks, Diane Stockton, Helen Tate.

Any Other Business: The group sent best wishes to Dave Andrews who had been ill recently. It was agreed to reduce the number of meetings this session to seven and to six thereafter.